Nguyen, Cuong

From: mbs@raderfishman.com

Sent: Monday, October 06, 2003 5:45 AM

To: Nguyen, Cuong

Cc: mbs@raderfishman.com

Subject: FW: Interview on Tuesday, October 7th at 9am for Serial No. 09/608,924 for System and Method for Web-Based Electronic Buying System

Examiner Nguyen, thank you for seeing me tomorrow. Enclosed are proposed claim amendments for your consideration based on our thinking at this point. The key point of discussion I would like to focus on in our meeting tomorrow is the issue of a "customer profile". Despite the extreme length of Wong, nowhere does it talk of a "profile". In the context of the present invention, a "purchase history" is not a profile. The claims have been amended to better capture the internal activity associated with a customer profile, which is simply not shown in Wong. Similarly, Katz does not render the claims, as amended, obvious. While Katz does disclose a customer profile, the profile is limited to the types of online forms that a customer fills out.

The separation of a customer profile into a company profile and a requisitioner profile, the company profile including company-defined, customer specific data fields solely for internal use by the company such that at least a subset of the company-defined, customer specific data fields are linked to the requisitioner profile and are used to govern actions available to a requisitioner, is not shown in the prior art. Nor are the limitations of proposed claims 1' and 1", which further define this concept in the context of the claimed invention.

If we need to talk before the interview, my cell phone number is 248-808-5565. I will be checking my e-mail this evening.

Thanks.

—mbs

10/6/03

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Racing the Engines: The Infonortics Search Engines Meeting, 1999.
It Was a mild spring day in Boston. Thousands of runners, in town to participate in the Boston Marathon, surrounded the 200 librarians, re-searchers,...
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What's New With Web Search.
Last year, in "The Future of Web Search" (ONLINE, May/June 1999, p. 54-61), I took on the somewhat quixotic task of painting a portrait of the state...
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Web Search Engines.(Web Search Engines comparison chart)(Internet/Web/Online Service Information)
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2002 Search Engine Meeting: the focus was on the current state of these systems and their future. (Report from the Field).
The Search Engine Meeting, sponsored by Infonortics, Ltd. of Tetbury, U.K., grew out of a memorable Association of Information and Dissemination Centers...
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Online EXPERT Databases & Services.
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Knowledge portals and the emerging digital knowledge workplace.
A fundamental aspect of knowledge management is capturing knowledge and expertise created by knowledge workers as they go about their work and making...
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CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A purchasing method for use with business purchases of a company comprising the steps of:

maintaining a front-end database of customer profile associated with a customer;

receiving a product query from said customer;

obtaining real-time product information responsive to said product query using data from said associated customer profile, wherein said real-time product information is obtained from a supplier database that is remote from said front-end database; and

using said real-time product information to create an order line; and

wherein said customer profile is not limited to a purchase history and includes both a requisitioner profile and a company profile, said company profile including company-defined, customer specific data fields solely for internal use by said company such that at least a subset of said company-defined, customer specific data fields are linked to said requisitioner profile and are used to govern actions available to a requisitioner.

Claim 1' (New): The method of claim 1, wherein said company profile includes a hierarchical structure with at least an account administrator, an account approver, and multiple requisitioners, said administrator managing said requisitioners and said account approver approving proposed requisitions submitted by said requisitioners.

Claim 1'' (New): The method of claim 1' wherein said administrator selectively limits the selection of products and suppliers available to said requisitioners.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A buying system for use with business purchases of a company comprising:

a first computer system maintaining at least one customer profile associated with at least one of multiple customers, wherein said customer profile is not limited to a purchase history and includes a product requisition approval limit and both a requisitioner profile and a company profile, said company profile including company-defined, customer specific data fields solely for internal use by said company such that at least a subset of said company-defined, customer

specific data fields are linked to said requisitioner profile and are used to govern actions available to a requisitioner;

multiple second computer systems, each associated with at least one supplier, maintaining real-time product information;

means for presenting a product query from one of said customers having an associated customer profile to said second computer system; and

means for obtaining real-time product information, from one of the second computer systems, responsive to said product query based upon information in said customer profile.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A web-based buying system for use with business purchases of a company comprising:

a customer profile associated with a customer, wherein said customer profile is not limited to a purchase history and includes a product requisition approval limit and both a requisitioner profile and a company profile, said company profile including company-defined, customer specific data fields solely for internal use by said company such that at least a subset of said company-defined, customer specific data fields are linked to said requisitioner profile and are used to govern actions available to a requisitioner;

data representing a product query received from said customers having said associated customer profile;

means for creating an order line using real-time product information, wherein said real-time product information is accessed from a supplier database, remote from the customer profiles, and wherein said real-time product information is obtained using said data representing the product query and said customer profile.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method of using a customer profile in a buying system for use with business purchases of a company comprising the steps of:

maintaining a plurality of company profiles associated with a plurality of customers;

maintaining requisitioner profiles for requisitioners associated with designated customers, each requisitioner profile being associated with at least one company profile, wherein said requisitioner profiles and said company profiles are stored on a front-end database, said company profile including company-defined, customer specific data fields solely for internal use by said company such that at least a subset of said company-defined, customer specific data fields are linked to said requisitioner profile and are used to govern actions available to a requisitioner; and

selecting data from a remote supplier database to be provided to a particular requisitioner based on the company profile associated with said requisitioner.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A method for web-based buying comprising the steps of:

maintaining a front-end database for storing a customer profile associated with a customers, wherein said customer profile includes at least one company profile and at least one requisitioner profile, said company profile including company-defined, customer specific data fields solely for internal use by said company such that at least a subset of said company-defined, customer specific data fields are linked to said requisitioner profile and are used to govern actions available to a requisitioner;

presenting a query from one of said customers having an associated profile to a remote supplier database; and

creating an order line using real-time product information from said remote supplier database, wherein said real-time product information is responsive to said customer profile from said front-end database.